

The blessed state of England.

# DECLARING

THE SVNDRIE DANGERS VVHICH BY GODS

assistance, the QUEENES most excellent  
Maiestie hath escaped in the whole course  
of her life. With her singular vertues  
and peaceable gouernment.

VVherein is also shewed how greatly foraine  
Nations doe admire and wonder thereat, to-  
gether with the rare titles of Commendation  
which the great Emperor of the Turkes lately sent in  
his Letters to her Highnesse.



Printed for VVilliam VVright. 1591.

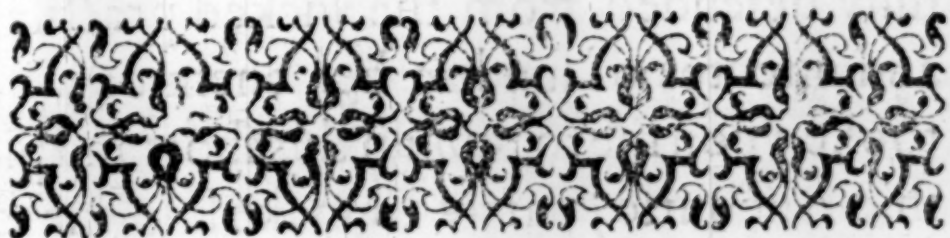
# DISCLAIMER

OF THE WILL OF B. J. O'NEAL  
AND THE O'NEAL ESTATE  
IN THE COUNTY OF ... STATE OF ...  
BY ...

THE ... OF THE ...  
... OF THE ...  
... OF THE ...



Witness my hand and seal this ... day of ... 19...



TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE  
THE LORD MAIOR OF THE CITIE  
of London, and to the right worshipfull his bre-  
thren, the Aldermen of the same Citie, Thomas  
Nelson wisheth happines in this life with  
increase of honour.



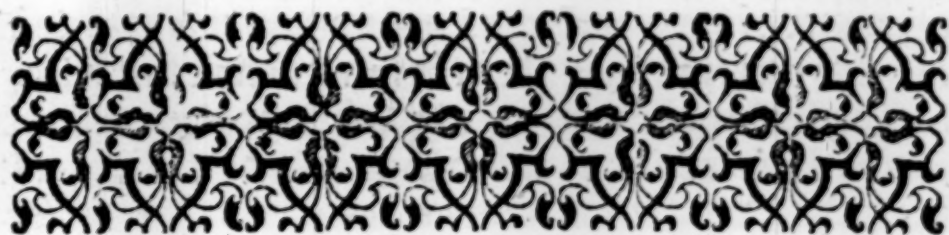
Alling to minde (right Honora-  
ble and VVorshipfull) the mani-  
fold blessings which it hath plea-  
sed almightie God to bestowe v-  
pon this realme of Englande, wherein he  
hath not only placed his most sacred & ho-  
ly worde, but also giuen vs a most gracious,  
vertuous and peerelesse princes, the queens  
most excellent Maiestie, to be the defender  
and supporter of the same : who by hir sin-  
gular wisdom together with hir godly care  
and Christian gouernment, this land is blef-  
sed with an vnspeakable peace and plenty.  
VWhich great & vnspeakable blessings, whē  
I had thorowly considered and plainly per-  
ceaued that this lande onely inioyeth them  
for hir highnes sake, whom he hath wonder-  
fully



fully defended from the wicked practises  
and intentes of sundrie her enemies . I  
tooke vpon me to publish this short and pi-  
thie Discourse, partly to make knowne to  
all hir maiesties well disposed subiectes, the  
louing kindnes of almightie God towards  
hir, the loue and affection which forreine  
princes beare hir, and how much the verie  
heathen do admire at hir proceedings, and  
therewithall, giuing hir such honorable and  
due titles of commendatiōs as neuer prince  
nor potentate hath had the like . This Dis-  
course, right Honorable and VVorshipfull,  
although I haue not handled it so rhetori-  
cally as many more learned than my selfe,  
might haue performed it, yet I humbly be-  
seech your Lordship and VVorships to ac-  
cept it in good sort at my hands as it is, yel-  
ding my selfe wholly to your graue censures,  
who I trust will wey my well meaning in the  
ballance of your accustomed curtesies. For  
whom I hartely pray vnto God to send you  
a happie and prosperous newe yeare & ma-  
ny to his good pleasure.

Yours humble servant  
I. A.





A rare and due Commendation of  
the singular vertues and gouernment of  
the *Queenes* most excellent Maiestie: with  
the blessed estate of *England*. And how  
God hath blessed her Highnes from time  
to time.



When so considereth the state of this  
lande from the birth daie of the  
Quænes most excellent Maiestie e-  
uen to this present time, may easilie  
perceiue the great and vspeakable  
godnes of almightie God towards  
this small Iland, how he hath in the  
same time brought many wonderfull things to passe, yea  
it appeareth, that his intent was then to perform in her  
(as he hath since done) a most rare worke and full of im-  
possibilitie. And that his mightinesse, his loue, his care,  
his wonders, and his mercifull prouidence, might clære-  
ly shew forth, and bee evidently seene in her, notwith-  
standing all the practises, force and mightines of her e-  
nemies. Who were like many times since to haue pre-  
uailed against her, had not God of his gracious godnes  
and power, mightilie and miraculouſly defended her.

And here if wee consider the ground worke of Gods  
blessinges prefigured in her Highnes, it appeareth verie  
eident, that first he did in her infancie adorne her with

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all manner of vertues, such as none might compare with all. And thereunto gaue her the spirit of true knowledge and vnderstanding of his truth, with a zealous desire to search the Scriptures, and to haue a full intelligence in the knowledge and difference of tongues, that she might the better defend and maintaine the truth, if ever shee might come to that dignitie whereunto she was successfully bozne.

Thus in her young and tender yeres it pleased God to call awaie King Henric the eight of most famous memory, and after his death gaue vnto vs the most Christian king Edward the sixt, who lawfully succeeded in the roome of his deceased father, but such was the vntthankfulness of the people at that time, that the most parte of them desired to follow strange Gods, & to worship them with superstition and idolatrie, and vtterly reiected the sincere and true religion of Iesus Christ, maintained and publikely administred, and allowed by that most Christian and godly king.

But in respect of this their vntthankfulness, it pleased God sodainly to withdrawe the light of his truth from the generall multitude of them, by taking awaie the saide Christian king: and in stead of his truth and Christian religion (then sodainly abolished) he sent them blinde guides to maintaine and nusse them in Popish and superstitious idolatrie, giuing them a Prince that allowed thereof, and stirred vp many tyrants and tormentors to slaie, persecute and slander the true professors of Gods truth. Then were the true professors of his worde tried lyke siluer in the furnace, and the bayes of bloudshed of Christians dailie scene. Then were the blessed Saints of God constrained to liue in caues, dens, desarts, deepe dungeons, and vntwholesome places, yea, then what Gaile or prison in this lande was not filled with the true professors of Gods truth, and dailie condemned and burned with fire and faggots: Then bloudie  
die



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die Bonner, Gardner, and John a Mailes, and a number of tyrants tormented and persecuted sundrie godlie persons, as Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Bradford, Philpot, Rogers, and a number of learned and godly preachers, and neuer leste them untill they had consumed their bodies to ashes. Then began the troubles of the Quenes most excellent Maestie that now is, who bearing the title and name of Ladie Elizabeth, was vehemently suspected to be a fauourer of true religion, so that Stephen Gardner then Bishop of Winchester, and Bishop Bonner then Bishop of London, did together complot and practise meanes to procure the death of her Maestie. And thereupon in time hoping they should find meanes to cause the losse of her head, got her to bee sent to the tower of London in a Barge like a traitor, and there locked vp close prisoner, where she was straightly watched, subtilly examined, and deeply charged with heresie and blasphemie. Then were her seruants put from her, and the cruellest persons thought most meetest for the strait keeping of her person, where though continuall teares issued forth in abundance from her princely eyes, and she found innocent in things wherwith she was dayly charged, yet could shee not haue anie fauour for her releasement. In all which time of her troubles, shee endured a number of crosses, being sometime taken forth of her bed when she was in great daunger of death, and suffered a number of such like iniuries, and although it were grievous to her being a Prince, yet did her Highnes endure them with so great patience, that euen in her deapest sorrow, shee would rather sigh and desire the libertie of the Gospell, than in anie sorte to wish or desire her owne releasement or freedome. But from the tower of London, after many examinations befoze her enemies, and cruel thzeatninges by her sharpe and tynnous keepers, shee was closely connaied to Woodstocke, where she continued in great grieve, calling vpon God, & did onely put her trust in him, and perswaded her selfe, that hee knowing  
her



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her innocencie in those things wherewith she was dailie yet wrongfully charged, would doubtles in time deliuer her from the snares and wicked intents of her mightie aduersaries.

Thus after three yeeres imprisonment, in which time she was had in greate disgrace, it pleased God to looke vpon her with his mercifull eies, and caused queene Marie her sister to send for her forth of prison, for which great signe of loue and fauour at Gods hand, she gaue humble thanks to God in deliuering her from the handes of her mightie and capitall aduersaries, who during her imprisonment, would verie subtilly examine her, where her inferiours would triumph ouer her, wher her foes would threaten her, and her disembling friends would dailie vndermine her. Thus Almighty God hauing deliuered her in pittie, did also take compassion vpon this distressed land, and as well to shew his mercifull comfort to his afflicted Church and members of the same, as also to make his louing power and kindnes to shine forth vpon her maiestie, did by death call awaie queene Marie, and immediately appointed our most gracious Ladie Elizabeth to the inheritance of the crowne and diadem of England. Thus was her most princelie maiestie called from a prisoner to be a prince, from the possession of a castle, to the inheritance of a crowne, and from feare of losing her head, to bee entituled the supper came head.

Thus was her Highnes proclaimed the lawful queene of England, after ward crowned to the greate ioye of all her louing subiects and well willers, who shewed great signes of loue and obedience to her maiestie, adorning the streets in the Citie of London in her iourney towards Westminster, with pageants, shewes and triumphs of great cost, yea they caused the Conduits in the Citie to runne with pure wine, and nothing was omitted that might be done to shew their ioyfull hearts.

Great was her Highnes clemencie when shee was  
come

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come to the crowne, she preferred pittie and peace before rigoꝝ & reuenge, by seeking to spare their bloud, which before sought to spill hers.

Since the time of whose most prosperous and happie raigne, the kingdome of England hath ben blessed of the Lord: it hath abounded with wealth, plentie and peace, Popish idolatrie is now banished, and the true & sincere word of God is freely preached among vs to our everlasting comfort. By her and through her wee are all blessed: her proceedings are godly, and her administration of iustice most commendable: her lawes are snaffles vnto the wicked, and guides to the godly: wisdom, policie and good gouernment bꝛideloth all manner of bꝛoiles which follie would daily bꝛæde and bꝛing in foꝝ the confusion and ouerthrow of her Maiestie and this lande, against whom neither foꝝaine foꝝce noꝝ ciuill fraude, neither discoꝝde at home noꝝ conspiracies abꝛoade could at anie time auaille.

O blessed peace, O happie Prince and foꝝtunate people, the God of Abraham is Englands God, in the midst of whom he hath placed peace which bꝛingeth all plentie foꝝ the sake of a virgin queene, who with a wand ruleth her owne subiects, and with her worthines winneth the good will of all strangers, she that is no lesse gracious among her owne nation, than glorious to others, noꝝ anie lesse beloued of her subiectes then meruailed at in other kingdomes: the same of whose happines, peace and tranquillitie runneth into all partes of the woꝝld, in to euerie foꝝaine nation and heathen kingdome, yea, euen to the court and pallaces of the mightie and great Emperour of the Turkes: among whom generallie her Highnes is wonderfully feared and greatly loued. Foꝝ prooofe wherof that her Highnes is wondered at, spoken of, and highly reuerenced in the Court of the great Turke and else where, let the rare titles which that heathen Emperour hath adoꝝned her Maiestie withall in his late letters sent into England beare witnes here of.

B

The



IN EDIENED CITATE

The most Honorable and rare titles which  
the Emperiall *Musulmanlike* great Em-  
perour of the Turkes, named *Zuldan*  
*Murad Chan*, lately sent in his Letters to  
the quenes most excellent maiestie.

*To the most sacred and regall Maiestie of Eliza-  
beth Queene of England.*

Most glorioſus, and in brightnes most splendant wo-  
man, and of women the choiſeſt, prince of the migh-  
tie followers of Jeſus, quene of the famous king-  
dome of Englande, most excellent Ladie, most sapi-  
ent gouernesse of all the causes and affaires of the peo-  
ple and family of the *Bazarites*, the most honourable  
quene of *Chriſtendome*, the most pleasant spring of  
clerenes and glorie, the most acceptable cloude of  
ſweete ſhowers, the Ladie and heire of the perpetuall  
bleſſednes and happines of the flourishing kingdome  
of Englande, to whome all diſtreſſed ſuters doe ſtocke  
for ſuccour and releaſe. We wiſhing from God the  
creatour a most ſortunate increaſe and ſucceſſe to your  
maiesties causes and affaires, and offering eternall  
praifes and bowes, worthis of mutuall and perpetuall  
familiaritie and league, &c. And vnderneath, the ende of  
the ſame letter, containing matters onely appertaining  
vnto princes: and therefore omitted. It is thus ſub-  
ſcribed. Cuen in our Royall palace of *Constantinople*,  
the twelfth day of June in the yeare of Jeſus one thou-  
ſande ſiue hundred ſoure ſcore and ſenne. And of our  
great prophet *Mahomet* nine hundred ſoure ſcore and  
eightene, in the ende of the moneth *Saban*.

Theſe titles of great honour plainly ſheweth,  
that her maiestie is moze ſpoken of in the Courtes both  
of



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of Christian and Heathen princes, and more feared and beloued than euer prince that liued in this lande. What Christian prince, hath at any time had Ambassage from the great Turke but onely hir highnes, or hath had so many Ambassadors together as her maiestie hath receaued, and at one time intertaind with great honour in her owne Courtes: I am of that mind that there hath not bene anie. And although England be but an Iland of small compasse, yet such is the blessing of God vpon the same, that happie is that region and commonwealth, that nation, that king, that kinde, that prouince or countrie, that is in league, unitie, friendship, loue and amitie with the quenes maiestie of England.

If the mightie Emperour of the Turkes, doe himselfe in this sort loue and honour her highnes, and all other Christian princes, desire mutuall agreement with her (except such whome God hath blinded with selfe loue) howe much then are naturall bozne subiectes bounde in dutie to reuerence her, yea and to pray for her long life by whome onely they liue in such happie and peaceable estate. This peace the Lord of his goodnesse hath continued with great and vnspeakeable mercie among vs his chosen people of Englande since the time of hir maiesties reigne, whereby we are greatly bound to praise God for such a prince by whom we enioy al the benefits of peace, hauing our barnes full while other famish, our coffers stuff while others are emptie and our houses furnished when others are fired. This peace God hath given vs only for her vertues: & which we ought hartely to pray that it will please God still to continue the same among vs for his mercies sake. O fortunate England that hast so famous a quene, we are vngratefull if we pray not for her, we are wicked if we loue not her, & most miserable whensoever we loose her.

Her Maiestie is a stranger and altogether vnknown vnto the great Turke, & yet same which telleth truth al the worlde ouer, hath made her name, her vertues, her wisdom, her iudgement and iustice verie sufficientlie known vnto him. In respect whereof hee hath offered that to aide, assist, and pleasure her maiestie, all necessarie things ordered and prepared in his porte, shall bee speedily dispatched and in readines at her Highnesse pleasure, to defende her agaynst anie enemy whatsoeuer. With promise of assurance not to doubt thereof.

It is a rare thing to see a heathen Prince professe and vowe to perforce matter of so greate a moment vnto a Christian Prince. A thing neuer read of in auncient Chronicles, nor heard of vntill this time, and were it not that it is the wonderfull and vndoubted wil and prouidence of almightie God, it coulde neuer haue come to passe, neither is it to be thought otherwise, but that the secreete worke of God by her maiestie may bee such as may be some occasion heereafter of the Turkes conuersion, which the Lord graunt may speedilie come to passe.

What greater meruaile hath euer happened since the worlde beganne, then to see a maiden queene gouerne in peace so valiant and strong a people, yea, and to make all nations and people in the worlde to admire, honour and loue her, and her selfe to liue in the fauour of almightie God (in despight of them that wishe her spoile) with her sword in her sheath, her armour in the tower, with hir souldiers in their houses, and her coine in her coffers: readie to defende the inuading enemy whensoever he shall finde himselfe readie to offend the weakest parte of her dominions, which at this date in all foraine partes is called the most happiest kingdome.

England



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England is the iuell and flower of bountie, peace, plentie and welth, yea it is the principallest place for a nie man to liue in throughtout the whole worlde. What else maketh the strangers to flocke so fast to Englande? thinke you it is only for religion: no I warrāt you, there is of them as there is of our owne nation, manie godly professors, true Protestantes, some Papistes, some Atheists, some Iacke a both sides, some Anabaptists and what not? So that in truth it is the ease, the welth, the peace, the safetie and security of England, both for their liues and goods that bzings them hither in such abundance.

Is not England, thinke you, most happie and blessed that feels no parte of the afflictions which other kingdoms, princes, & nations do daily endure? We liue at libertie boide of feare, so as we obserue hir Maiesties lawes: we liue with frēdome of conscience, which thousands of thousands wants, we haue the truth daily preached among vs, we safely reape the cozne from the ground, which is yearely sowne. Here mercie and mildnes reignes euerie day together, & euerie man posselseth his owne with quiet. Here no taxes are imposed vpon the people as in other countries, where they can not haue a pot of English beere, but they are taxed for it towards the maintenance of warres. Here the great blessings of God appeares, vpon our ground in our hearbs, our fruites, our selues, our children, our cattell, and in all other things appertaining to vs whatsoeuer.

Contrariwise, other countries round about vs, especially France and the seauentēne Prouinces, are grievously distressed and oppressed with ciuill warres, mutinies, tumults, rowts, riots and all manner of things that may stirre by mischiefs, which end with bloud and death, this worketh the ouerthrow of euery well gouerned estate, and wil be the vtter confusion of those countries and kingdoms, if God do not in his mercie speedely



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bzing to passe some wayes and meanes for the redress-  
ing thereof.

Their fieldes are filled with Cropes, whilest ours  
are quietly bzinging forth corne, they are mustering  
their men in harnesse, whilest that we in quiet are  
reaping our harvest. Englands bseth their peeces to  
fowle for pleasure, when in other countries they vse  
them for feare of perill. Who so euer he be that con-  
sidereth the troubles which they daily tast of, their con-  
tinuall dangers and daily vnquietnesse, which they  
from time to abide, will say no lesse but that their case is  
most miserable.

Howe wonderfully hath the Lorde blessed this lande  
with abundance and plentie of all manner of things,  
as no nation in Christendome may compare with vs,  
we haue first the blessings of almightie God, we haue  
golde and siluer, mynes of tinne and lead, iron, steele,  
copper, brasse, and for wooll and cloth, what coun-  
trie may compare with Englands, we haue quarries  
of stone, quicke siluer, sulphur, blacke lead, allome,  
oztment, vermillion, copperas, salt peeter, sea coale,  
chare coale and great store of all manner of woode and  
fuell, trees, fruites, saffron, fowle, fische, deare,  
sheepe, rabbits, beeses, bullocke. Of lether, butter,  
cheese and corne, the Lorde hath sent vs abundance,  
and in so great abundance as no nation hath greater  
plentie or may equally compare with vs.

Besides all these, the Royall Navye and generall  
shipping of this lande, are such as fame her selfe ma-  
keth Englands enemies to quake at the same: and  
this Navye suffiseth for thre seuerall purposes: the first  
and principallest that they are founde of sufficient  
strength for defense in time of warre: the seconde sorte  
are for burthen, and the thirde sorte for fishing: the  
least of all which, one for one and of equall burthen,  
shall bare to match any two or thre that any enemy  
hath

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bath heretofore sent against vs . And all this were nothing , noꝛ we in neuer the moꝛe safetie , if God who is the ouerthrower of all strength , were not the principallest pꝛoppe and pillar of our safetie : but of this we are sure , that all these benefites and blessings come from God , who is the authoꝛ of all goodnesse , and from whome all blessings doth pꝛocēde , and that he daily increaseth and multiplieth his blessings vpon vs onely foꝛ her maiesties sake , whome he daily defendeth and pꝛotecteth , and foꝛ whome he continually fighteth against the subtill and craftie deuises and attemptes of the enemies of God and his church , and of her highnes and this land.

The gouernement of Englande is most honoꝛable and the pꝛocēdings as honourable , yea it is vsed and oꝛdered in suche soꝛte as no treasons can so secretly bee pꝛetended , but they are soone spied out , and the pꝛactisers of them seuerely punished : resistance is soone had if foꝛren power by inuasion doe pretende our hurt , the people of Englande are soone vp in armes , as was seene at Tilberie , at Harwitch , and in euerie shire in this realme of Englande at such time as the Spanishe power attempted to haue made a full conquest of this whole lande , but God gaue strength , courage and wil- lingnes to euerie man to withstand them , yea the great goodnes and mercie of almightie God was shewed in ouerthrowing our enemies and deliucring vs from the vngodly intents of those bloodthirstie persecutours , here needlesse to be recited , the same being yet fresh in euerie mans memoꝛie.

Englande is the place where all things are cheape & easily had : and in all foꝛren nations people woonder and holde vp their bandes to beholde the happie state of Englande and as well the frē as the foꝛren doe all ad- mire our peace and plenty . This argueth doubtlesse that God hath blessed the land , the pꝛince , the seat & the people  
and



## The blessed estate, &c.

Where his blessings is there wants no ioy, no blisse  
no hope of heauens happines, no doubt of the long con-  
tinuance thereof.

England is a swæte nut incompassed in a shel which  
is hard to cracke, it seemeth that it crackt the teeth of the  
Spaniards when they came in their ships on the west of  
England like great castels intending to haue deuoured  
the swæte nut of Gods bounties and blessings, which is  
the quēenes maiestie, and the states of England.

England (God be thanked) is free from such yoke, the  
bodie is sound and the armes are strong, I meane both  
the prince and the people, young and old haue sufficient  
courage to dant the foe and able ioints to trie our right  
in the field: so that England nēde not doubt the power  
and strength of the enemy so long as we doe maintaine  
Gods truth, who is the grounde of Englands trust, and  
so long as we are carefull to please God, and to do as he  
hath commanded vs in his woꝛds: we may assure our  
selues that he will keepe vs from being conquered, or by  
our enemies to be troden vnder fete.

To conclude, seeing we finde our selues so bountifullly  
blessed, as is aforesaid, and that we liue in a more hap-  
pier estate than our neighbours in fozren nations, only  
foz hir sake who is the root, branch & flower thereof, sozaf-  
much as by hir the same is like to be cōtinued, we ought  
earnestly to pray foz hir to almighty God to continue  
his blessings towarde hir. The God of heauen blesse  
hir highnesse from all daungers, preserue and blesse hir  
maiesties most honozable Councell, and continue his  
blessings towards England foꝛ euer moꝛe. Amen.

FINIS.



18423a

Nelson, T.